



## **Benton County Conservation Board Meeting**

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Benton County Nature Center 5718 20<sup>th</sup> Ave Dr, Vinton

**Members present:** Mike LaGrange, Dan Hill, Denni Randall, Becky VanWey, Randy Scheel, and Liaison Tracy Seeman.

**Staff present:** Shelby Williams, Zach Parmater, Layla Hagen, and Faith Hunt.

**Call to order:** Called to order at 5:30 PM.

**Guests or public participation:** No guests.

**Consent Agenda (previous minutes, expenditures, revenues):** Motion approved by Scheel seconded by VanWey. All aye, motion passed.

### **Old business**

- a. **City of Atkins - Atkins Roundhouse:** Williams has reached out to the City of Atkins and has not heard back.
- b. **One-acre parcels:** Williams has told county attorney that this is not a high priority but to keep it in mind.
- c. **Hannen Lake Shop:** Plan to start construction on April 1. Still waiting on bid contracts. Williams will be following up with these remaining companies this week.

### **Organizations:**

- a. **TriCounty Snowmobile Association:** MOU meeting will be held at the next board meeting.
- b. **Wildcat Disc Golf Volunteers:** No update.
- c. **Foundation:** Next meeting: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 7:00pm. Donation given in Mike Hagen's father's name.
- d. **OCNT Committee:** Next meeting: Spring 2023. Abstract for the new trailhead has been completed. Next step is title opinion and deed transfer. DOT notified BCCB there will be work on 218 and the current trailhead would be affected. LaGrange will be talking to nearby businesses to discuss donations towards rock for the new trailhead.
- e. **Winegar Equestrian Volunteers:** No update.

**Environmental Education:** Aaron Askelson went to IAN last week. Hunt is preparing for the Sandhill Crane trip next week with Buchanan County. The Nature Center basement has been resurfaced. The Spring Newsletter will be sent out soon. Eco-Extravaganza 2023 will be "Art in Nature" themed. Our snake ambassadors got an upper respiratory infection from the dust from the basement work, Hunt has



taken him to the vet and he is on antibiotics and a nebulizer. Project Aware is going to be going through Benton County in July, the naturalists and possibly a few staff members will be assisting with this event.

**Law Enforcement:** Spring CCPOA Workshop will be held this week. We will be replacing all of the trail cams in the parks as our current service is being discontinued. Looking at getting new ones through security.

**BCCB Properties**

- a. **Wildcat Bluff Recreation Area:** Williams will be speaking with John Tuthill about getting access to the property so BCCB can do inventories and burns. Hill suggested we get in contact with Shellsburg and Urbana to explain the acquisition. Williams plans to go to city meetings to discuss the acquisition. Williams has a piece posted in the newsletter and plans to post in newspapers. BCCB plans to hold an informational meeting about the acquisition in early June during Egg-celent Weekend. BCCB plans to create larger maps for members to take to different meetings.
- b. **Paha:** Cecilia Dirks and Parmater have been working on the groundwork for a grant application for improvement work.
- c. **Wells:** Rodgers and Nature Center wells need to be tested and DNR permitted because they are a public water source. The current wells need to be reworked in the future as we cannot have them in the pits. Wildcat wells tests came back good.

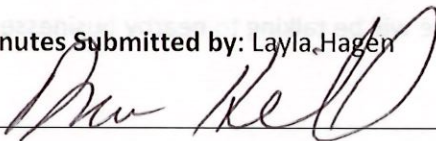
**Director Updates**

- a. **Vacation Policy:** The Board discussed time off for the director as department head. LaGrange moved to grant Williams an additional 40 hours of vacation per year, effective her anniversary date. Seconded by VanWey. All aye, motion passed.
- b. **Other**

**Set next regular meeting:** Monday, April 10, 2023 at 5:30pm, Benton County Nature Center

**Adjourn:** Scheel moved to adjourn at 7:19 pm, seconded by LaGrange. All aye, motion passed.

Minutes Submitted by: Layla Hagen



4-10-23

Approved

Date